The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite is expected to provide high quality satellite data for use in a variety of disciplines, such as Forestry Hydrology Geology and Agriculture

In the area of forestry, classification of different types of trees in forests, information on their stages of growth, etc., can be obtained leading to estimates of forest wealth and a continuous monitoring of the increase/reduction in forest cover. Also valuable information on water resources including information on snow cover, surface reunoffs reservoir areas, drainage network; flood mapping etc.. can be obtained. Hydro-geological features will provide information on ground water. These data would assist in the effective planning for use of water resources.

Geological information from Satellite Remote Sensing will provide data on structural geology, mineral exploration, mapping and map updating. In coastal coceanography, identification and location of sea food, surveillance of coastal erosion, coastal currents, sedimentation marine pollution etc. will be possible through use of appropriate satellite data.

Useful information can be obtained from IRS imageries in relevant areas of agriculture, such as cultivation of land areas covered by various crops, areas under different types of irrigation, soil type and soil association, range land, waste land etc., useful information on agricultural statistics such as crop yield prediction and damages caused by water stress, nutrient stress etc., will also be available.

Thus, a large data base can be created in the areas of Forestry, Hydrology, Geology and Agriculture for monitoring and for effective use of national natural resources and for the protection of environment.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is to pay Rs. 7.50 crores to USSR Foreign Trade Agency LICENSINGTORG (LIT) for the launch of IRS-1A and other related service.

Chinese connections with separatists in Assam

3627. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alleged Chinese connections with separatist and anti-Government forces in Assam and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) There is no concrete information to this effect.

(b) Does not arise.

Illusion of Lord Buddha in penthouse Magazine

3628. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the vulgar illustration of Lord Buddha in the August edition of Penthouse magazine of U.S.A.;

(b) whether Government have lodged any protest with the Government of U.S.A. in this regard which hurts the feelings of millions of Buddhists;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) upon publication of the illustration in question the Indian Embassy in Washington remained in close touch with the Embassy of Thailand there which in turn got in touch with other embassies of Buddhist countries with a view is lodging a joint protest. The Embassy of Thailand, after due consideration of the matter, informed the Indian Embassy that they felt that it would be better to approach Buddhist associations in the USA for taking up the matter with the Pent house magazine. The Embassies of Sri Lanka and Burma similarly.